1	2	3
		41. Masoor 42. Yellow/Red Maize
22.	Haryana Commodities Ltd., Hissar	1. Mustard Seed 2. Mustard Seed Oil 3. Mustard Seed Cake
23.	Bikaner Commodity Exchange Ltd.,	1. Rape seed/Mustard seed, its Oil & Cake 2. Gram 3. Guar Seed 4. Guar Gum
24.	Bullion Association, Jaipur	1. Mustard Seed 2. Mustard Seed Oil 3. Mustard Seed Cake *(Nil trading from 2005-06 onwards)

Procurement of wheat

†1217. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the procurement of wheat in the country has been less than the target during the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the quantity of target and the bases of fixing the target;

(c) the quantity of actual Government procurement; and

(d) to wheat extent the quantity was less in comparison to the procurement for the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) Since procurement of foodgrains under the Minimum Support Price

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(MSP) operations by Government agencies is open-ended, therefore no specific targets for procurement are set. However based on the estimates of procurement of wheat for Crop Year 2005-06, to the marketed in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2006-07, given by Food Secretaries of wheat procuring States, it was estimated that 162 lakh tonnes of wheat would be procured in RMS 2006-07. Against this estimate only 92.25 lakh tonnes of wheat could be procured by the Government agencies.

(d) This procurement was 55.60 lakh tonnes less than the 147.85 lakh tonnes of wheat procured for Crop year 2004-05 (which was marketed in RMS 2005-06).

Procurements by corporations

1218. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision to import wheat reflects Government's failure to procure enough wheat after the last harvest;

(b) whether Government are aware that the large corporations such as Cargile and Reliance have taken advantage by quickly occupying the space vacated by Government and there are serious implication for food prices and food security; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The procurement of wheat in Rabi Marketing Seasons (RMS) 2005-06 was 147.87 lakh tonnes while the off-take of wheat in 2005-06 was 171.64 lakh tonnes. As a result the stocks of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st January, 2006 was 61.88 lakh tonnes against the buffer norm of 82 lakh tonnes.

To augment the stocks of wheat in the Central Pool and also to keep a check on open market prices of wheat, a decision was taken to import 5 lakh tonnes of wheat in February, 2006. Subsequently, in RMS 2006-07, it was estimated that only 95 lakh tonnes of wheat would be procured against the estimate of 162 lakh tonnes. Therefore, to augment the wheat stocks in the Central Pool, since the Government did not want to compromise on